

I claim:

1 1. A method for distributing purchased goods at retail or wholesale outlet
2 stores, comprising the steps of:

3 entering into one or more agreements with one or more retail and/or wholesale
4 outlet stores to store and distribute goods that are different from displayed goods at
5 the retail and/or wholesale outlet stores; and

6 providing a mechanism for customers to remotely order the goods stored at the
7 one or more retail and/or wholesale outlet stores and receive order confirmation
8 information;

9 wherein the one or more agreements provide that, upon presentation of the
10 order confirmation information at a retail and/or wholesale outlet store associated with
11 the order confirmation information, possession of goods associated with the order
12 confirmation information is transferred to a presenter of the order confirmation
13 information.

1 2. The method for distributing purchased goods at retail or wholesale
2 outlet stores of claim 1, wherein at least one of the agreements provides one or more
3 of the retail and/or wholesale outlet stores an exclusive territory with respect to
4 distribution of the goods.

1 3. The method for distributing purchased goods at retail or wholesale
2 outlet stores of claim 1, wherein the step of entering into one or more agreements is
3 preceded by the step of:

4 soliciting competing bids from prospective retail or wholesale outlet stores to
5 provide storage and distribution services.

1 4. The method for distributing purchased goods at retail or wholesale
2 outlet stores of claim 1, wherein the mechanism for customers to remotely order the
3 goods comprises a Website.

1 5. The method for distributing purchased goods at retail or wholesale
2 outlet stores of claim 1, wherein the one or more agreements additionally require the

3 retail or wholesale outlet stores to package goods associated with the order
4 confirmation information after the order confirmation information is presented to the
5 retail or wholesale outlet stores.

1 6. The method for distributing purchased goods at retail or wholesale
2 outlet stores of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

3 electronically providing a retail or wholesale outlet store associated with the
4 order confirmation information with a packing list associated with the order
5 confirmation information after the order confirmation information is presented to the
6 retail or wholesale outlet store.

1 7. The method for distributing purchased goods at retail or wholesale
2 outlet stores of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

3 electronically transferring funds to a retail or wholesale outlet store associated
4 with the order confirmation information after the order confirmation information is
5 presented to the retail or wholesale outlet store.

1 8. The method for distributing purchased goods at retail or wholesale
2 outlet stores of claim 1, wherein the one or more agreements additionally require the
3 retail or wholesale outlet stores to receive the goods in bulk containers.

1 9. The method for distributing purchased goods at retail or wholesale
2 outlet stores of claim 8, wherein the one or more agreements additionally require the
3 retail or wholesale outlet stores to return the bulk containers once the bulk containers
4 are empty.

1 10. The method for distributing purchased goods at retail or wholesale
2 outlet stores of claim 1, wherein the one or more agreements additionally require the
3 retail or wholesale outlet stores to distribute the goods in intimate level protection
4 packaging.

1 11. A method for distributing purchased goods at retail or wholesale outlet
2 stores, comprising the steps of:

3 receiving order pick-up information from a customer;
4 electronically transferring the order pick-up information to a remote order
5 processing facility and electronically receiving a packing list associated with the order
6 pick-up information; and
7 pulling goods identified in the packing list from bulk containers and providing
8 the goods to the customer without distribution packaging.

1 12. The method for distributing purchased goods at retail or wholesale
2 outlet stores of claim 11, further comprising the step of:
3 packaging the goods in intimate level protection packaging before providing
4 the goods to the customer.

1 13. The method for distributing purchased goods at retail or wholesale
2 outlet stores of claim 12, wherein the intimate level protection packaging includes one
3 or more bags.

1 14. The method for distributing purchased goods at retail or wholesale
2 outlet stores of claim 12, further comprising the step of:
3 packaging the goods in one or more structurally reinforced bags.

1 15. The method for distributing purchased goods at retail or wholesale
2 outlet stores of claim 12, further comprising the step of:
3 packaging the goods in one or more bags with handles.

1 16. A processing system for distributing purchased goods at retail or
2 wholesale outlet stores, comprising:
3 a processor configured to receive an inventory verification request and
4 information pertaining to a geographic location, to identify one or more retail or
5 wholesale outlet stores that are within a particular distance of the geographic location
6 and that have in stock goods identified in the inventory verification request, and to
7 generate a list of the one or more retail or wholesale outlet stores.

1 17. The processor system for distributing purchased goods at retail or

2 wholesale outlet stores of claim 16, wherein the processor is further configured to
3 generate order confirmation information associated with the goods identified in the
4 inventory verification request and with one of the retail or wholesale outlet stores on
5 the list.

1 18. The processor system for distributing purchased goods at retail or
2 wholesale outlet stores of claim 17, wherein the order confirmation information is
3 associated with the retail or wholesale outlet store on the list that is closest to the
4 geographic location.

1 19. The processor system for distributing purchased goods at retail or
2 wholesale outlet stores of claim 17, wherein the order confirmation information is
3 associated with the retail or wholesale outlet store on the list that is selected by a
4 purchaser of the goods.

1 20. The processor system for distributing purchased goods at retail or
2 wholesale outlet stores of claim 17, wherein the processor is further configured to
3 provide a packing list associated with the goods identified in the inventory
4 verification request in response to an indication that the order confirmation
5 information has been provided to the retail or wholesale outlet store associated with
6 the order confirmation information.

1 21. The processor system for distributing purchased goods at retail or
2 wholesale outlet stores of claim 17, wherein the processor is further configured to
3 initiate a transfer of funds in response to an indication that the order confirmation
4 information has been provided to the retail or wholesale outlet store associated with
5 the order confirmation information.